

WE CLAIM

1. A method for producing a structural component for a motor vehicle, including at least two shell sections that are attached to one another along flanges, comprising attaching the shell sections of the structural component to one another by flanging.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying an adhesive, which is very strong and highly rigid after hardening, to at least one of said flanges prior to the flanging.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein a single-component epoxy adhesive is used as the adhesive.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the shell sections is produced by a deep-draw process.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the shell sections is made of a light metal alloy.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the flanging takes place in a final station of a pressing line, following production of the shell sections.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied automatically to the flanges at an orienting station prior to the final station.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising heating at least one of the shell sections prior to the flanging.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the heating is restricted locally to a linear area that undergoes a greatest deformation as a result of the flanging.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein a heat-generating device positioned outside of a tool or a flanging device is provided for the heating.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein a heat-generating device positioned in a recess of a tool is provided for the heating.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said structural component is an elongated support component.

13. The method according to claim 6, wherein the flanging takes place immediately following the production of the shell sections.

14. The method according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the shell sections is produced by a deep-draw process.

15. The method according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the shell sections is produced by a deep-draw process.

16. The method according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the shell sections is made of a light metal alloy.

17. The method according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the shell sections is made of a light metal alloy.

18. The method according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the shell sections is made of a light metal alloy.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein the flanging takes place in a final station of a pressing line, following production of the shell sections.

20. The method according to claim 3, wherein the flanging takes place in a final station of a pressing line, following production of the shell sections.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the adhesive is applied automatically to the flanges at an orienting station prior to the final station.

22. The method according to claim 4, wherein the flanging takes place in a final station of a pressing line, following production of the shell sections.

23. The method according to claim 5, wherein the flanging takes place in a final station of a pressing line, following production of the shell sections.

24. The method according to claim 1, further comprising heating at least one of the shell sections during the flanging.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the heating is restricted locally to a linear area that undergoes a greatest deformation as a result of the flanging.

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein a heat-generating device positioned outside of a tool or a flanging device is provided for the heating.

27. The method according to claim 24, wherein a heat-generating device positioned in a recess of a tool is provided for the heating.

28. The method according to claim 9, wherein a heat-generating device positioned outside of a tool or a flanging device is provided for the heating.

29. The method according to claim 9, wherein a heat-generating device positioned in a recess of a tool is provided for the heating.

30. The method according to claim 1, further comprising heating at least one of the shell sections prior to and during the flanging.

31. A structural component for a motor vehicle, including at least two shell sections that are attached to one another along flanges, produced by the method of claim 1.